

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 7- The Test of Love

53. The Law of Love Part 1

WAOY Tuesday 07/17/07; WOSM Wednesday 12/14/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to begin to examine what John taught about "The Law of Love". So, let's open our Bibles to **1John 2:7-11** and read those verses together:

7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard.

8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.

9 The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now.

10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

Now over the last several broadcasts I have gone over with you how John emphasized and linked obedience to Salvation. John taught that the final proof any man can have of the fact that he is a Christian is that he keeps and that he *delights* in keeping and that *goes on* keeping the Commandments of the Lord. So based upon this we can say with all confidence that it is impossible for anyone to be a genuine born from above believer unless and until he surrenders to a lifetime of ongoing and consistent obedience to that which God has said. The offshoot of course of that of course is that this genuine believer- this true

saint of God- will love the Words of God because only in the Words of God can we find what God has said.

Now on today's broadcast- I want to move into new section of study which will take us into another of John's tests of genuine Salvation- and that other test is love for the brethren.

It is rightly said that a Christian loves both God and all those who love God. Or in other words- we are to love God and love the people of God. And this love for the brethren is one of the great hallmarks of being saved and in these 5 verses, the Apostle John links true Salvation with love for the brethren.

In other words, like he made the connection between being saved and obedience- John here makes this same connection with being saved and loving the brethren. Another way of saying this is that it is *impossible* for anyone to be saved and not love all those who are also saved.

Now it is important for us to note here that at this particular point in Scripture- John is *not* talking about us loving sinners- which is a very intricate part of being a Christian- but he does not address that aspect of love here- but John is very narrowly focusing on our love for the brethren in thee verses.

And John uses some very descriptive words to describe just how vital it is for us to love all those who love Jesus. More than any other New Testament writer- John equated being saved with being "in the light." John loved light and he loved to write about light, and he used this word "light" 37 times in the five New Testament Books which the Holy Spirit moved him to write. And of those 37 times- John uses the same Greek word- 33 times. That Greek word is "foos" (**fw=\$**), which is used in Scripture to: *denote light itself; or that which comes from a lamp or a candle; or of daylight itself; or of that dazzling splendor and glory which shines forth from the throne of God.*

When John used the word "foos" or "light", he meant that moral and spiritual light and knowledge which enlightens the mind, soul or conscience, including also the idea of moral goodness, purity and holiness, and of consequent reward and happiness.

John told us in **John 1:4** that in Jesus Christ is life and that life is the light of men. Now that statement has a twofold meaning. First of all, that statements means just what it says- that in Jesus Christ is life and that life is light. But John loved to speak in exclusionary terms.

When John wrote he wrote in the way which shows us that Christ was exclusive.

For example- this statement in **John 1:14** is used as an exclusive statement in the sense that John was saying that this life can be found in only one source; one place; one Person- Jesus Christ. By saying it like this, John was actually saying that no one else who is alive now or who has ever lived or who will ever live can give this life or light except Jesus Christ. And by default, that also means that since no one else can give this life and light- that no one else has light and life to give except Jesus Christ. And that means by default that all others beside Jesus Christ have only death and darkness within them and they only have death and darkness to give.

So, if you want life and if you want light- John says there is only one source- Jesus Christ. You cannot acquire holy, pure, eternal light or life from any other source.

For example- you cannot acquire this light and life from Government. Government can do a lot of things but because Government is based upon human ingenuity and human effort through ongoing compromise- it does not have the capacity to even possess this life and light much less give it to anyone else.

Nor can you get life and light from Science or Technology. They too are based upon the power and ability of fallen human beings and thus they cannot ever grasp this light and life and they cannot give them to anyone else. Money and Power and Prestige and Fame cannot bring you this light and life either. In fact- while it is true that none of these human concepts have neither light nor life in them- they do possess darkness and death and they can, and they do give those things out in abundance.

If we are to ever have this kind of eternal life and eternal light- we must go to Jesus and to Jesus alone. Now this truth has very important ramifications for us today. Since we can acquire life and light from no one else but Jesus- we must recognize that all other concepts not only contain death and darkness- but they also have the power to deceive as well.

For example- Science cannot bring forth life or light- but Science used incorrectly; Science, which has a political agenda- this “pseudo-science” or “false science” *does* have the power to fight against God and to fight against Truth. We see that today in our public schools where in

the name of science our children are indoctrinated to disbelieve God and to look at the Bible as being a foolish and untrustworthy collection of myths.

When I was a child- I was taught that when the frog crawled up on the lily pad and kissed the princess and became a prince- that that was a fairy tale. But today they are teaching that this is Science. In 1961, when I entered the first grade- it was against the law in the state of Texas to teach evolution. Today in the Mississippi public school system- it is against the law to teach Biblical Creation. This is how far we have fallen just during my lifetime.

So, our children are taught lies and falsehoods and they are given both death and darkness all in the name of Science and this is done in broad daylight right in our faces. Soon it will be law in this state to teach grade school children that being sexually perverted is no different than being left handed and that to preach and teach against perversion and to uphold Biblical sexual morality will be considered by our own Government to be “hate speech” punishable by both fines and prison time.

So, we must guard our soul, beloved, and we must be careful not to look to Government for either life or light. Do not trust the local, state, or the Federal Government to provide you with Truth. Do not trust the Office of President or the Supreme Court or the Republican Party to be your source of hope and truth and life and light. That is a tragic mistake. Churches should not be taking money from the Government to do God’s business because with that money comes dependence and with dependence comes compromise.

The Church of Jesus in America must be free and unhindered to cry out against the sins of our nation without being muffled because our support comes from Government or a Political Party. This is going to come back to haunt us if we continue to go down this road, beloved. Please hear me on this.

I am an American- and I love, and I support our country. But I am a Christian *before* I am an America. And God transcends human Government- and it must always be that way. The Church must not form an unholy alliance with the Government or a political Party to achieve her goals. That has been tried over and over and over throughout history and every time it has been tried- it has miserably failed. The success of this nation does not depend upon getting more

Republicans elected to office or stacking the Supreme Court with people who we think are going to vote our way. I will remind you that the Church was born in a pagan nation with a pagan Government which was violently hostile to Christianity and not only did the Church survive – it grew and prospered.

Science or Technology or Money or Government or any other human concept cannot and will not provide us with life or light- but we must run to Jesus- and we must embrace Him and we hold Him and be held by Him and make our abode with Him and set up camp with Him and stay with Him and dwell with Him and we must “marry” Jesus- not simply periodically “date” Him- and we must taste and eat and chew and savor and swallow and digest His Word consistently and fully and often so that we may be filled with eternal life and in that life we will have light.

So, this is John at his best. John loved to speak and write like this and it shows us his great understanding that Truth and Salvation and Hope and Life and Light is found only in the Person of Jesus Christ.

But now that we understand that- we must then move on to what this means to us in the 21st Century. Since Life and Light are found only in Jesus Christ- then all those who are in Jesus Christ also have this life and light in them. We are not that light- but we have that light in us because Jesus is in us. Jesus is the light- but we have that light precisely because we have been born from above and are no longer of this world.

So, John says that it is impossible for anyone who is in Jesus to walk in darkness on an ongoing basis. Now keep in mind that John didn't say it was hard- John said that it was impossible. Those who walk in darkness prove beyond any doubt that they do not know Jesus nor do they love Jesus by virtue of the darkness that is in them. So Light and Life proves our Salvation while Darkness and Death proves our lostness.

So, we can see that John tells us here that both light and darkness are *measureable*- they are *definable*, tangible and objective attributes that can be seen and touched and described and measured.

And one of the ways that John teaches that light and Life can be seen and measured and known in us is in our love for the brethren. And John tells us here that if we love God we *will*- by default- love the

brethren. And John says that by our loving the brethren- we are walking in the light even as Jesus is the light. John goes on to say that if we do *not* love the brethren- then that proves to us and to the world that we are walking in darkness and do not know the light or have the light in us. So, this “loving the brethren” thing is a real big deal to John because it is a real big deal with God.

Now some would say here- *“Okay, Brother Blair, I got it- we are supposed to love God and love people- okay fine- so let’s move on to something more interesting and more juicy here.”*

But wait just a minute. God willing, I plan to show you over the next several broadcasts that even though we may know this- very few people are actually *doing* what John said here and we will see just how important this all is to the success of the Church and how we all need to do a much better job of loving God’s people.

So, hold on to your hats and join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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